

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13

AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 /125 W

-----210931Z 040195 /15

R 201600Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7347

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NOUAKCHOTT 886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, CH, UR, US MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TOMAINLAND CHINA

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 812 (NOTAL), (B) NOUAKCHOTT 721 (NOTAL)

1. DURING WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION APRIL 18, MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FIREIGN AFFAIRS, HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS, VOLUNTEERED SIX TO EIGHT MINUTE BRIEFING ON PRSIDENT OULD DADDAH'S FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA APRIL 5 TO 10. GIVEN MINISTERS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT DATING BACK MANY YEARS, HIS METHODICAL USE OF FIRST PERSON PLURAL THROUGHOUT HIS PRESENTATION SUGGESTS GIRM COLLECTIVE "WE" IN-
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CLUDES VIEWS OF PRESIDENT.

2. CHINESE VIEW OF THE WORLD: WHAT CHINESE LEADERSHIP SAID PLUS MARUITANIAN IMPRESSIONS OF THEIR HOSTS' VIEWS:

(A) CHINESE WERE HARSH, RIGID AND "EXPLOSIVE" ON USSR AND ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND EASTERN EUROPE;
(B) CHINESE TOLD MAURITANIANS THEY DO NOT RPT NOT RE-

GARD SINO-SOVIET FRONTIER AS POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL POINT OF TENSION. MOUKNASS CITED CHINESE COMMENT "AFTER ALL, ONE MILLION SOVIET SOLDIERS SCATTERED ALONG VAST DISTANCE OF OUR COMMON BORDER PRESENTS NO MILITARY THREAT"; (C) REAL DANGER, REAL SOVIET THREAT IS IN EASTERN EUROPE, FOR EXAMPLE IN BERLIN; (D) ON WORLD IDEOLOGICAL FRONT, CHINESE MADE IT FORCEFULLY CLEAR THAT SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE SOVIET VERSION OF COMMUNIST TRUTH ON REST OF COMMUNIST WORLD WERE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. CHINESE DECLARED THEY WANT TO BE A PART OF COMMUNIST COMMUNITY, BUT AS ONE NATION IN A GROUP OF INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN STATES; (E) CHINESE DECLARED THEY WOULD THEREFORE SUPPORT ROMANIA AND YUGOSAVIA FULLY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GET OUT STAY OUT FROM UNDER SOVIET IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL DOMINATION; (F) CHINESE DISCUSSED FREELY THEIR CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WITH US, INCLUDING NECESSITY OF US RECOGNITION OF TERRITORIAL UNITY OF ALL OF CHINA. BUT IN MOUKNASS' VIEW, CHINESE LEADERS WERE CLEARLY "RELAXED" ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. (AS GIRM FOREIGN MINISTER SINCE 1968, MOUKNASS HAS HAD REPEATED ENCOUNTERS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS IN PEKING AND AROUND WORLD. HIS COMMENT MAY THEREFORE HAVE A COMPARATIVE AS WELL AS A CURRENT, DESCRIPTIVE SIGNIFICANCE.)

3. GIRM OBSERVATIONS/IMPRESSIONS OF PRC LEADERSHIP ON AFRICA;

(A) ACCORDING TO MOUKNASS, CHINESE LEADERS WERE THOROUGH-CONFIDENTIAL

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LY STIRRED UP AND VIGOROUSLY OUTSPOKEN ("EXPLOSIVE") ON SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT (INSTIGATION, SUPPORT) OF "KATANGAN" INVASION OF ZAIRE AND PLEDGED ALL-OUT SUPPORT OF MOBUTU GOVERNMENT.

(B) IN ADDITION, CHINESE LEADERSHIP IN VIGOROUS AND UNMISTAKEABLE LANGUAGE WARNED MAURITANIAN DELEGATION THAT "IF AFRICANS ARE NOT CAREFUL, THEY WILL FIND THEMSELVES IN PRECISELY SAME POSITION EASTERN EUROPEANS ARE IN--DOMINATED BY SOVIET UNION".

4. ON MAURITANIAN/CHINESE BILATERAL RELATIONS:

(A) INITIATIVE FOR OFFICIAL VISIT CAME FROM CHINESE. SUBJECT WAS FIRST RAISED WITH MOUKNASS IN NEW YORK DURING LAST UNGA BY FORMER PRC FOREIGN MINISTER; (B) MAURITANIANS WERE IMMEDIATELY AGREEABLE. PRESIDENT HAD HAD VERY CLOSE, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP OF CONSIDERABLE MUTUAL RESPECT AND ADMINIRATION WITH PREMIER CHOU AND GOOD PERSONAL ASSOCIATION WITH GHAIKMAN MAO. PRE-

SIDENT WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING PERSONAL
CONTACT WITH THEIR SUCCESSORS;

(C) MAURITANIANS ARE GRATEFUL FOR EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC
AID PRC HAS PROVIDED. GIRM ESPECIALLY APPRECIATES FACT
CHINESE COME IN, DO PROMISED JOB QUIETLY AND WELL, DO NOT
GET INVOLVED IN EXTRANEIOUS ACTIVITIES AND THEN PULL OUT
ALL THEIR TECHNICIANS AND SEND THEM HOME WHEN JOB IS DONE.
(D) MOUKNASS REPORTED THAT CHINESE HAVE FORMALLY DECLARED
THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED WITH NOUAKCHOTT DEEPWATER
PORT PROJECT AND THAT CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN BEFORE END
OF 1977 OR IN FIRST MONTH OR TWO OF 1978. CHINESE DES-
CRIBED AT LENGTH TECHNICAL COMPLEXITIES (DUE IN PART TO
SAND CARRIED BY CONTINUOUS HIGH VELOCITY CURRENTS AND
WINDS) AND EMPHASIZED THEY HAD NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED
PROBLEMS QUITE LIKE THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDING PORT
ON ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA (NB: WHERE THERE IS NOT
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SLIGHTEST HINT OF A NATURAL HARBOUR). CHINESE LEADERSHIP
ASSERTED TO GIRM DELEGATION (AS CHINESE AMBASSADOR KANG
HAD PREVIOUSLY TO ME) THAT NOUAKCHOTT PORT PROJECT IS
TECHNICALLY MORE COMPLEX AND DEMANDING THAN TANZAM RAIL-
ROAD. ACCORDING TOMOUKNASS, GIRM MUST CARRY OUT CERTAIN
TASKS UNDER JOINT PORT PROJECT AGREEMENT, BUT COMMENTED
THAT GIRM INVOLVEMENT IS MODEST AND GIRM FINANCIAL RES-
PONSIBILITIES ARE MINIMAL; CHINESE WILL DO VIRTUALLY
ALL WORK AND PAY VIRTUALLY ENTIRE COST. (COMMENT:
MOUKNASS' COMMENT IMPLIES MAURITANIANS HAVE WITHDRAWN

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 /125 W
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R 201600Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7348
INFOHLUFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 589
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NOUAKCHOTT 0886

THEIR OBJECTIONS, IMPORTED CHINESE WORK FORCE (OF PERHAPS 2000) AND THEIR INSISTENCE THAT CHINESE UTILIZE MAURITANIAN MANPOWER, THUS ACQUIESCING TO "ALL CHINESE" PROJECT APPROACH WHICH HAS BEEN STANDARD CHINESE OPERATING PROCEDURE IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA.)

5. GIRM PERCEPTION OF INTERNAL CHINESE SCENE:

(A) CHAIRMAN HUA AND VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN WERE "WELL ENSCONCED" (BIEN ASSIS)--CLEARLY IN COMMAND AND COMFORTABLE IN THEIR SEATS.

(B) CHINESE AMBASSADOR KANG, WHO WAS ON HAND IN PEKING TO GREET ARRIVING PRESIDENT, IS "AN IMPOSING FIGURE" (UN GRAND MONSIEUR). IMPLICATION OF MOUKNASSCOMMENT AND CONTEXT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT KANG IS NOT ONLY ABLE, POLISHED, INFLUENTIAL DIPLOMAT, BUT ALSO SIGNIFICANT FIGURE IN PRC ESTABLISHMENT.

(C) GIRM LEADERSHIP CAME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION NEW CHINESE LEADERS INTEND TO CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DURING NEXT FEW YEARS, AND THAT THEY WILL GO ABOUT THIS TASK WITH LITTLE FANFARE AND LITTLE NOISE.

6. POST VISIT ACTION: FROM ANOTHER SOURCE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT DAY OR TWO AFTER GIRM GROUP RETURNED, PRESIDENT CONVENED MEETING OF DELEGATION MEMBERS AND OTHER GIRM OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN AID AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH CHINESE. PRESIDENT OPENED MEETING WITH DECLARATION OF POLICY: HE WANTED AND EXPECTED TOTAL COOPERATION WITH CHINESE, AND EXPECTED EVERY EMPLOYEE OF MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS WERE NECESSARY TO REMOVE ANY OBSTACLES AND TO FACILITATE IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY CHINESE ACTIONS AND OPERATIONS IN MAURITANIA. PRESIDENT THEN POLLED MEMBERS OF DELEGATION ON ONGOING PROJECTS AND ON PROBLEMS CHINESE HAD ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING

AID PROGRAMS IN THEIR FIELDS. WHEN DIRECTOR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE REPORTED PROBLEMS WITH CLEARING CHINESE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS THROUGH CUSTOMS, PRESIDENT TURNED TO DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS AND ORDERED HIM TO RESOLVE PROBLEM AND REMOVE BARRIERS IMMEDIATELY. PRESIDENT REITERATED STATEMENT OF POLICY OF TOTAL COOPERATION TWICE MORE DURING SESSION.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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